

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14

RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /243 W

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P R 111346Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3129

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, GW

SUBJECT: FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND COORDINATION OF
ASSISTANCE TO HARDEST HIT COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 120476

1. EMBOFFS MADE LOW KEY APPROACH PER REFTTEL TO SCHULZ
OF FRG AID MINISTRY AND HANFLAND OF FRG FINANCE MINISTRY.
BOTH EXPRESSED SOME RESERVE ON PROPOSAL NOTING
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THAT FRG HAD SPOKEN UP AGAINST IT WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY

PROPOSED--MAINLY BECAUSE OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ALREADY EXISTED TO DEAL WITH LDC PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE THE FRG WAS OPPOSED TO INVOLVING THE WORLD BANK OR THE IMF IN WHAT WOULD BE HIGHLY POLITICAL LDC QUESTIONS. HANFLAND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WORLD BANK'S CREDIT STANDING COULD BE IMPAIRED.

2. HANFLAND STRESSED THAT THE FRG SEES THE NEED FOR A HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO DEAL WITH THE LDC PROBLEM, BUT THE BASIC ISSUE IS TO WHICH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IT WOULD BE ATTACHED . PERHAPS, HANFLAND CONTINUED, THIS HIGH LEVEL GROUP SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT, DRAWING ON THE EXPERTISE OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS NECESSARY.

3. BOTH OFFICIALS ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY THE US SEEMED SO INTERESTED IN SPEEDING UP CONSIDERATION OF THE LDC'S PROPOSAL. NEITHER OFFICIAL WOULD COMMENT ON POSSIBILITIES OF ORGANIZING LONG TERM CONCESSIONARY FINANCING.

4. COMMENT. THE FRG OBVIOUSLY HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AS IT NOW STANDS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE FRG WILL TAKE ANY INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FRG WOULD GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS OPINION SHOULD IT DEVELOP.

5. SHOULD A PROPOSAL BE APPROVED, THE FRG WOULD FACE DIFFICULT BUREAUCRATIC CHOICES AT HOME CONCERNING WHICH MINISTRY WOULD REPRESENT THE FRG IN A C-20 RELATED FORUM. THE FINANCE MINISTRY DOES NOT DEAL AT ALL WITH DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS EXCEPT FOR ALLOCATING BUDGET FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE AID MINISTRY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT AREAS BUT HAS LITTLE COMPETENCE IN GENERAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. AN AID MINISTRY LED GROUP WOULD PROBABLY NOT SATISFY LDC PREFERENCE FOR A FINANCE MINISTERS GROUP.
HILLENBRAND

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